



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

MAY 28 2013

Robert B. Ross, Jr.
Bureau of Land Management
Las Vegas Field Office
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89103

Subject: Proposed Sloan Hills Competitive Mineral Material Sales Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision, Clark County, Nevada [CEQ #20130101]

Dear Mr. Ross:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above referenced documents. Our review and comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA Implementation Regulations at 40 CFR 1500-1508, and our review authority under Clean Air Act Section 309.

We note that the Sloan Hills Competitive Mineral Material Sales Final EIS and Record of Decision indicate that the Bureau of Land Management has selected the No Action Alternative for this project because all of the action alternatives (Alternatives 1 through 4) would impede compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone in the project area and would not conform to the Clark County Regional Transportation Plan or the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the State of Nevada. Federal actions must not adversely affect the timely attainment and maintenance of the NAAQS or emission reduction progress plans leading to attainment. EPA recognizes that, in denying authorization of the proposed mineral material sales, BLM has selected the only alternative evaluated in this EIS which you could ensure would conform to the SIP.

We have appreciated the opportunity to work with your staff in reviewing the issues raised by this project. If you have any questions, please call me at (415) 972-3843, or have your staff call Jeanne Geselbracht at (415) 972-3853.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Enrique Manzanilla", is written over a horizontal line.

Enrique Manzanilla, Director
Communities and Ecosystems Division

cc: Harish Agarwal, Clark County Air Quality and Environmental Management